

There is no end to the lengths the Rebutlican Party will go to to hijack yet another election. It's not enough that voters who have registered as Democrats has discovered that their registration forms were trashed. That was to be expected here in Jacksonville, but now it turns out that it's going on elsewhere, too.

It's not enough that we're bombarded with right-wing propaganda on radion stations and news from Fox, the fantasy news show.

Republicans were absolutely furious over Fahrenheit 9/11, which people at least had to pay to see. This Sinclair documentary, on the other hand, will utilize the public airways in yet another attempt, like the Swift Boat nonsense, to discredit someone who has done more for his country than all the Bush clan and its incompetent, corrupt administration.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.